

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/903,124

Examiner

Ramya Ananthanarayanan

Applicant(s)

O'KEEFE, KEVIN

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to an amendment filed on March 3, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-18.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 19 July 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


AYAZ SHEIKH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Donald J. MacDonald on March 22, 2005.

Claim 1 has been amended to include language describing the authentication of documents in a database using indexed information including seed values which correspond to each of the documents stored in the database. Amended claim 1 is as follows:

Claim 1. An apparatus for providing access to a plurality of authenticated electronic documents over a network comprising:

- a server computer;

- a user interface connected to said server via a first network interface for providing user access to said server;

- a computer network connected to said server via a second network interface, said electronic documents being accessible through said computer network;

- a database connected to said server computer via a third network interface, said database storing indexed information for authenticating the content of each of said plurality of electronic

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documents, the indexed information including seed values corresponding to each of said electronic documents;

said first network interface, said second network interface and said third network interface being disjunct respective to each other such that said user interface, said computer network and said database are not in communication therebetween;

a verification server comprising first and second network interfaces for connecting said computer network and said database thereto, said first and second network interfaces being disjunct such that said database is not accessible through said computer network, said verification server for iteratively traversing said database and retrieving said indexed information corresponding to a next one of said electronic documents, retrieving said electronic document via said computer network, checking the authenticity of the content of said electronic document using said corresponding seed values and updating the database with a status of the authenticity of said electronic document;

said server computer configured so that upon receipt of a user request for a document, said server queries said database as to whether said requested document is indexed therein and returns a denial if said requested document is not indexed in said database, otherwise said server retrieves said requested document via said computer network, confirms the authenticity thereof using said seed values corresponding to the requested document and returns the contents of the requested document to the user if the requested document is determined to be authentic;

wherein said apparatus provides a user access to a plurality of authenticated electronic documents available through said computer network and prevents the user from directly accessing said computer network.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-18 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: In applicant's claimed invention, documents are authenticated due to the indexing of documents based on a seed value calculated from the content of each document, which is novel, unobvious and useful. Claim 15, and its depending claims 16-19 disclosed this aspect of applicant's invention. As mentioned in the Examiner-Initiated Interview Summary, this aspect of novelty, usefulness and unobviousness was communicated to applicant's lawyer and an amendment of independent claim 1 was recommended in order to make the claim and its dependent claims 2-14 allowable. Applicant complied and applicant's lawyer faxed examiner an amended copy of claim 1 that meets the statutory requirements for patentability.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

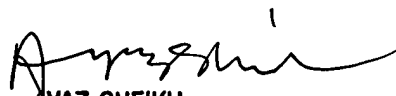
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ramya Ananthanarayanan whose telephone number is (571) 272-5860. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8:30 -5.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on (571) 272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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